

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
GOVERNOR'S TRAFFIC SAFETY  
ADVISORY COMMISSION  
LANSING

ROBERT MORRIS  
CHAIR

**Approved**

**Minutes of the Meeting held February 22, 2008**

**8:30 – 11:55 a.m.**

**4000 Collins Road, Lansing, Michigan**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Robert Morris, Chair  
Michael Prince  
Anne Corgan  
Capt. Robert Powers  
John Friend  
Pamela Hall  
Linda Scarpetta  
Sheriff Al Byam  
Steven Puuri  
Chief David Stamm

**REPRESENTING**

Office of the Governor  
Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP)  
Department of State (MDOS)  
Department of State Police (MSP)  
Department of Transportation (MDOT)  
Office of Services to the Aging (OSA)  
Department of Community Health (MDCH)  
Local Representative  
Local Representative  
Local Representative

**STAFF**

Deborah Sonnenberg

**MEMBERS EXCUSED**

Dwight Sinila                      Department of Education (MDOE)

**GUESTS**

**REPRESENTING**

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Gary Bubar      | AAA Michigan                                  |
| Jennifer Burley | Alzheimer's Association                       |
| Dave Morena     | FHWA  |
| Homer Smith     | MADD Michigan                                 |
| Mark Bott       | MDOT  |
| Carol Reagan    | MDOS  |
| James Culp      | MDOT  |
| Bob Felt        | MDOT  |
| Brian Zimmerman | MDOT  |
| Betty Mercer    | Mercer Consulting Group LLC                   |
| Lance Binoniemi | Michigan Licensed Beverage Association (MLBA) |
| Matt Bolger     | MSP Executive Division                        |
| Diane Sherman   | MSP-CJIC                                      |
| Sandy Liddle    | Office of Financial & Insurance Services      |
| Pietro Semifero | OHSP  |
| Kathy Farnum    | OHSP  |
| Anne Readett    | OHSP  |
| Steve Schreier  | OHSP  |
| Lawrence Hummel | Van Buren Co. Road Commission                 |
| Eric Bombery    | WATS  |
| Scott Swayze    | Citizen                                       |

Robert Morris, Governor's Office • Michael Prince, Office of Highway Safety Planning • Linda Scarpetta, Community Health  
Dwight Sinila, Education • Anne Corgan, State • Capt. Robert Powers, State Police • John C. Friend, Transportation •  
Pamela Hall, Office of Services to the Aging • Sheriff Allen Byam, Local Representative  
Steven Puuri, Local Representative • Chief David Stamm, Local Representative

Acting on behalf of Chair Robert Morris (in route), Michael Prince called the meeting to order at 8:37 a.m. A Roll Call of the GTSAC members was taken establishing a quorum was present.

#### **Public Comment/Announcement Items**

Scott Swayze – Law student in Oakland Co. - Mr. Swayze provided his background in traffic safety and his desire is to establish a city of Detroit Traffic Safety Commission. To assist Mr. Swayze, Mr. Prince will provide his contact information to OHSP's regional liaison for the Wayne County area, the Traffic Safety Committee for Wayne County that is co-sponsored by OHSP, and AAA Michigan to get him engaged in the area's efforts.

#### **GTSAC Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Prince entertained a motion to approve the December 14, 2007, minutes. Moved by Mr. Puuri and supported by Sheriff Byam. Motion carried.

#### **Chair's Reports/Updates – Mr. Robert Morris**

None

#### **Legislative Report – Sgt. Matt Bolger/MSP**

Sergeant Bolger reported on the status of traffic safety related legislation in process. A Legislative Summary Report was distributed. Much discussion centered on a statewide speed limit for dirt roads and the issue of speed limit determinations on local roads.

#### **GTSAC Commissioner Updates**

##### **➤ Department of Transportation (MDOT) – Mr. John Friend**

- Mr. Friend expressed his appreciation to the GTSAC state agency representatives who presented at MDOT's Senior Level Engineers' Conference. Each presented on their agency's efforts in support of Michigan's Strategic Highway Safety Plan and how MDOT could help. Mr. Friend remarked that this segment of the conference was rated the highest by the participants.
- Mr. Friend commented on the \$1 billion Economic Stimulus Road Package for the State of Michigan that the Governor in her State of the State address. The road portion of the package is between \$150 and \$200 million and MDOT is actively selling bonds to meet the funding need. This portion of the stimulus package will exhaust the bond capability of the department. MDOT plans to have an aggressive construction season much like last year.
- The Quick Clearance legislation that was put on hold last summer is now actively being pursued. Representative Hoon-Yung Hopgood has agreed to assist with the legislation providing MDOT, OHSP, and MSP representatives meet again to ensure all are in agreement.

##### **➤ Department of State (DOS) – Ms. Anne Corgan**

- Ms. Corgan reported that the DOS is nearing the end of the driver education curriculum roll-out. Approximately 500 instructors remain to be trained. Training for the college instructors, that in turn teach the driver education instructors on how to teach driver's education, is scheduled for March. Once all training is completed the statewide curriculum will be implemented.
- As required by law, professional development requirements have been posted for driver education instructors to meet every two years prior to their renewing their certificate.
- The Michigan Center for Truck Safety partnered with DOS to facilitate a workshop for CDL instructors. The workshops are scheduled to begin in April.
- Two new rider coach trainers have been selected for the motorcycle safety program. The selections will be announced in March. Rider coach training sessions have been scheduled at various community colleges around the state and are expected to train approximately 50 new rider coaches.
- In follow-up to last meeting's report, Ms. Corgan reported the "Are You Truck Smart" brochures have been distributed to all branch offices in addition to the related video clip being broadcast over the branch video network.

- As a result of the DOS's CMV safety efforts, the Michigan Center for Truck Safety presented Secretary Terri Lynn Land with a Partner and Safety award.
  - DOS installed 100 kiosks in branch offices to automate and scramble CDL tests to deter cheating on the test. The same software is used to scramble the test given to driver education students.
  - In conjunction with their exhibit booth at the Detroit Auto Show, the DOS teamed with the Michigan Sheriffs' Association to exhibit their "Convincer" (crash simulator) to illustrate why seat belt use is essential to survive a crash. To augment the traffic safety focus of the booth, the alcohol intoxication goggles were demonstrated, in addition to featuring the Teen Driver Education Advancement.
  - DOS has also partnered with the Detroit Auto Dealers Association on the Courageous Persuaders program where high school students develop videos aimed at middle school age students on the dangers of drinking and driving. The deadline for submitting the videos is February 15. The top videos selected will be placed on the DOS branch office video network to target viewing by young drivers attaining their level one or two license.
  - Ms. Corgan reported that on January 25 the DOS will again be issuing driver licenses to persons lawfully in the country on a temporary basis.
- **Office of Services to the Aging (OSA) – Ms. Pamela Hall**
- For Ms. Hall's report, she introduced Ms. Jennifer Burley of the Alzheimer's Association to provide a presentation on Alzheimer Disease in relation to enforcement and traffic safety.
- **Department of Community Health (MDCH) Ms. Linda Scarpetta**
- Ms. Scarpetta provided an update on the status of the booster seat legislation. She was happy to report that the Senate Transportation Committee has scheduled a hearing on Tuesday, February 26 at 1 p.m. to review the legislation.
- **Department of Education (MDOE) – Mr. Dwight Sinila**
- Absent
- **Local Representation – Chief David Stamm (MACP)**
- Chief Stamm reported that surveys are being conducted in Genesee County and other areas around the state on underage drinking and traffic related crashes.
  - To educate and inform the chiefs around the state on traffic safety law and the resources available to them, Chief Stamm addressed township police chiefs recently in Grand Rapids. He provided copies of OHSP's traffic safety reference material, the Strategic Highway Safety Plan, and other traffic safety initiative material. To assist them with budget issues, contact information was provided for them to pursue funding and other enforcement avenues the smaller jurisdictions may have concerns with.
- **Local Representation – Sheriff Al Byam (MSA)**
- Calhoun County has a very active underage drinking prevention forum that has spun off a series of town hall meetings that provides a very good method of communicating the issues surrounding underage drinking. The next town hall meeting is March 24 at Marshal Middle School. For more information, contact Sheriff Byam.
- **Local Representation – Mr. Steven Puuri**
- In January, while assisting at an accident scene, an EMT was killed as a result of a secondary crash occurring at the site. It was reported that both were the result of the weather and road conditions. Although road crews were out addressing the road conditions, Mr. Puuri stated criticism stemming from the accidents was directed at the Washtenaw County Road Commission (WCRC) for not addressing that road's condition sooner. Mr. Puuri stressed that this type of incident brings into focus the need for road agencies to partner with emergency responders to communicate what laws and recommendations address response issues, such as the Michigan Manual for Uniform Traffic Control Devices,

Part 6-Temporary Traffic Control, Section i-Proper Emergency Responders Protocol covers explicitly what emergency responders should do to secure a safe traffic zone. In addition, a MDOT Maintenance Memo provides response guidelines for road agencies including relevant direction from the State Police.

The Washtenaw County Road Commission approached the issue internally questioning what else could they do to give assurance to emergency responders that they are there to help when they can at the level of assistance they can provide. The WCRC director sent a letter to all emergency response agencies in the county (sheriffs, fire, EMT's) requesting time on their meeting agendas to highlight the resources road agencies can provide in accordance with their Maintenance Call-out Procedures and the law.

- Mr. Puuri commented on the over budget expenses incurred and the diminished supply of salt due to the heavier demand this winter. Scheduling adjustments were made by all road agencies to conserve both funding and supply. Commissioner John Friend of MDOT added that budget concerns and a shortage of salt is not just a Michigan issue, but an entire Midwest issue. Mr. Friend applauded the high-level of cooperation occurring between government agencies in Michigan to assist each other.
- Commenting on Mr. Puuri's earlier remark of the accidents being reported as "due to road and weather conditions," Mr. Friend and Mr. Prince both spoke of the need to educate drivers on winter driving behavior and practices. Mr. Prince cited several media articles and news reports promoting crashes and fatalities resulting from "weather and road conditions," when in actuality, they are the result of the driver's failure to drive according to conditions. Mr. Friend remarked that MDOT initiated its "Go Slow in Ice and Snow" campaign this winter to remind drivers of their responsibility.

Mr. Prince stated that OHSP will be taking every opportunity to address this issue, and asks law enforcement partners to alert their dispatchers, PIO's or whoever provides the media with the day's crash statistics, to emphasize that crashes are caused by people's driving behavior (usually too fast) and that it's the driver's responsibility to adjust their driving according to conditions. Mr. Prince requested the assistance of the GTSAC members and partners to address positive driver behavior practices when attending and/or speaking at events.

➤ **Department of State Police (MSP) – Capt. Robert Powers**

- Captain Powers reported on the two MACP award programs, one for excellence in traffic safety and one for commercial vehicle safety initiatives. Due to budgetary constraints, the monetary awards were dropped from the programs. The following year, a significant reduction of nominations was received for both awards. Captain Powers and Mike Prince attribute the low number of nominations to the lack of monetary incentives. Both agree the traffic safety benefits gained from the programs outweigh the cost of the incentives so they are reinstating the monetary awards for this year's programs.
- MSP has been working with Michigan gas station outlets, Speedway and Pump Promotions (affiliated with independent stations in the Saginaw, Bay City, and Midland areas) to air traffic-safety messages on video screens affixed atop their gas pumps. The screen continually loops different messages such as paid advertisements and public service announcements. One of the test sites is in operation at the Marathon gas station in Freeland near Midland.
- The MSP Traffic Safety Division is again offering free training in commercial vehicle enforcement awareness. Information is posted on the Traffic Safety Division's Web site, [www.michigan.gov/motorcarrier](http://www.michigan.gov/motorcarrier) and also on the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police Web site, [www.michiganpolicechiefs.org/](http://www.michiganpolicechiefs.org/)

➤ **Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP) – Mr. Michael Prince**

- The December Impaired Driving Crackdown had 182 agencies participating. There were 375 DWI arrests, 210 safety belt citations issued, 890 speeding citations, 364 caught with suspended licenses, and 46 fugitives apprehended.

- St. Patrick's Day Enforcement - Nearly 150 local, county, and state police agencies in 27 counties will be conducting alcohol enforcement at least one night around St. Patrick's Day, March 14-17.
- CIOT Mobilization - OHSP is gearing up for the CIOT mobilization scheduled for May 19 through June 1. Six media events in Michigan's major media markets are currently being planned to take place on or around May 19. More information will be available later on in the spring.
- 2008 Traffic Safety Summit - As of Thursday, February 21, there are 306 registered for the 13th annual Michigan Traffic Safety Summit. This includes 237 participants, 53 speakers, and 16 exhibitors.
- New NHTSA Regional Administrator - Mike Witter, the NHTSA Region 5 Deputy Regional Administrator has been named the new Region 5 Administrator, replacing Don McNamara who retired in early January. Mike has worked in traffic safety for nearly 30 years and has been at the Region 5 office for 18 years.
- The OHSP Annual Evaluation Report (AER) has just arrived from the printers. Copies will be provided to the GTSAC Commissioners at the next meeting and will also be available on the OHSP Web site.
- National Non-checkpoint State Summit in Arlington Texas June 10-11 – This Summit was created for states that are prohibited from doing sobriety checkpoints. Michigan's contingent to be invited will include key players representing the Michigan Association of Chief's of Police, Michigan Sheriffs' Association, Michigan State Police, Prosecuting Attorneys Association, MADD Michigan, and OHSP staff to name a few. Discussion will consist of developing innovative strategies to make DUI enforcement more visible in the non-checkpoint states. Michigan already has some strategies in development for this year to increase the visibility of DUI patrols and hopefully more ideas will come from discussions at the Texas summit.

### **Action Team Reports**

#### **➤ Lane Departure/Intersection Safety Teams Update – Mr. Steve Schreier**

- Mr. Schreier reported that since the memberships of the Lane Departure and Intersection Safety Action Teams consisted primarily of the same individuals, and dealt with similar activities, it was decided to combine their meetings. Although they remain two separate action teams, as a combined force, the members refer to themselves as the Traffic Safety Engineering Action Committee. Two meetings were held this past month. The first meeting concentrated on the Intersection Action Plan. The second meeting concentrated on lane departure activities. Once the 2007 data is available, it will be incorporated into the action plans. Mr. Schreier does not anticipate the new data to change the messages of either plan, so the teams will be concentrating on the development of new strategies.

#### **➤ Young Drivers Action Team Update – Mr. Gary Bubar**

- Mr. Bubar presented a PowerPoint presentation outlining young driver safety initiatives being addressed at the national and state level. The National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) published a guide for young driver initiatives in late 2007. Mr. Bubar reported that Michigan is on target and in some areas ahead, in the implementation process of the report's recommended guidelines. The report provides many explanations as to why we are doing what we are doing. To view the [TRB NCHRP Volume 19, A Guide for Reducing Collisions Involving Young Drivers](http://www.trb.org/news/blurb_detail.asp?id=8493) go to: [http://www.trb.org/news/blurb\\_detail.asp?id=8493](http://www.trb.org/news/blurb_detail.asp?id=8493) or access via Google.
- From a research and analysis standpoint, action team members were asked by the University of Michigan to work with them on a three-year evaluative study of driver education effectiveness. Three geographical regions were chosen to be evaluated Michigan, Oregon, and Manitoba due to their similarities, and their differences. Data from studies conducted years ago did not support driver education as a method of reducing crashes. It is hoped that the results from this new study provide the opposite impact and effect by supporting driver education as effective in reducing young driver crashes.
- The action team would like to have more law enforcement members and asks GTSAC partners to assist in recruiting enforcement members interested in impacting teen driving.

- The Commissioners engaged in conversion of teen driver behavior issues including adjusting school start and stop times to align with teen sleep cycles. Mr. Morris commented that the Governor has a proposal out to have smaller high schools. If this were to occur, perhaps other changes could be incorporated at the same time. Also discussed, was mandating driver education for first-time drivers and immigrants no matter what their age, and adopting the GDL for all drivers by slowly integrating them in the process. Ms. Corgan stated that Michigan has entered into reciprocal agreements with Germany and France after first evaluating their driver education programs and standards to ensure they were equivalent or greater than Michigan's. The program requirements of other countries, however, are unknown which has caused dilemmas in issuing a Michigan license.
- In response to a question, Mr. Bubar outlined AAA Michigan's teen driving program "Dare to Prepare" that was adapted from AAA's national program to fit with Michigan's GDL process. The program is geared for pre high school, pre driver education, and pre licensing times to provide a forum to address students and parents together of the risks involved with an inexperienced driver and what the parents' responsibilities are. If there is interest in anyone's community for a program presentation or a parent presentation, contact Mr. Bubar.

➤ **Traffic Records Coordinating Committee (TRCC) – Ms. Diane Sherman**

- Ms. Sherman reiterated that the committee's emphasis continues to be promoting and developing the use of electronic crash reporting systems to increase the accuracy of the data and enable the data to be available quicker for analysis. To address privacy and identity concerns, a grant was secured for the removal of personal identifiers from the UD-10 crash reporting forms. This "sanitized" version of the form will be available on the Web site soon.

Ms. Sherman reported that approximately two percent of the records received at the MSP Criminal Justice Information Center (CJIC) are via electronic transfer. This percentage is expected to increase greatly as more agencies acquire the means to submit their data electronically.

- A grant was obtained to assist ten local agencies to convert to an electronic crash reporting system. Two of the agencies are already transmitting their data and two more will be operational soon. A workshop is being planned for June to highlight the benefits of the system and have the certified vendors of electronic crash programs available for questioning. Invitations will be sent to agencies not receiving a grant this year and to the agencies that expressed an interest in setting up an electronic records program on their own.
- CJIC received a grant to fund a full-time crash records trainer. Sgt. Mindy Logan has received an incredible number of training requests and has already conducted over 50 classes. Training announcements were issued to all law enforcement agencies via the law enforcement listserv. And a schedule of classes is posted on the Web site. Two training courses are offered, one for road officer and one for supervisors. Although the course is geared for law enforcement, non-law enforcement, i.e., traffic engineers, etc., could gain valuable insight into why officers complete the form a certain way or why a field was assigned a certain value.

Mr. Friend commented on the potential tie the law enforcement listserv could have to MDOT's Quick Clearance legislation. If passed, significant law enforcement training outreach would be necessary. Mr. Friend suggested the possibility of MDOT contributing or partnering in the use of the enforcement training listserv. Mr. Friend also expressed an interest of having MDOT staff present a brief Quick Clearance overview at UD-10 training sessions.

- Another grant was provided to the State Court Administrator's Office to assist in the enhancement of their Judicial Data Warehouse system where all court records are housed together.
- The Department of Community Health was provided a grant from OHSP to develop an electronic data capturing system for emergency medical services. A vendor has been secured to develop the software to be made available to any life support agency in Michigan. Three pilot counties have been selected

and are currently in the training phase. Once the medical data system is in place, the next phase will be to integrate with other systems to enable a greater analysis of the data collected to effectively direct resources and save lives.

### **Presentations**

- **MDCH State Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) Implementation – Ms. Linda Scarpetta/MDCH**
  - Ms. Scarpetta presented a PowerPoint presentation outlining the role the MDCH plays in support of the SHSP. The presentation is available upon request.
- **OSA Presentation: Communicating with Alzheimer's – Ms. Jennifer Burley**
  - Ms. Jennifer Burley showed a video titled *Safe Return* depicting situations law enforcement officers encounter with people having dementia and how behavior perceptions can be misdiagnosed. Training, presentations, and various videos can be requested through the Alzheimer's Association. To reach the chapter office nearest you, call 800-272-3900, or visit their Web site: [www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org)

The Association's Safe Return Program is a nationwide identification program to assist in the safe and timely return of memory impaired individuals who are lost. Patients registered in the program are provided some variation of identification to have on their person, i.e., necklace, bracelet, dog tag, etc. Ms. Burley expressed her desire to address more law enforcement agencies to educate them on the behaviors associated with Alzheimer's and techniques to use when encountering them and would appreciate any contact assistance the GTSAC partners could provide.

- **Crash Analysis of Shoulder Rumble Strips on MDOT Freeway – Mr. Dave Morena**
  - Mr. Morena discussed statistics gathered pre and post rumble strip installation over a 21 mile stretch of road in Gaylord.
- **Impaired Driving Symposium – Mr. Homer Smith**
  - Mr. Smith provided an overview of an Impaired Driving Symposium being developed. The Symposium will be hosted by the Impaired Driving Action Team and is being designed to Equip, Train, and Inform community leaders in effective impaired driving strategies. The primary focus of the Symposium will be on the use of social norm strategies to reduce impaired driving. Dr. Jeffrey Linkenbach is the featured speaker. Mr. Smith requests the GTSAC's endorsement of the Symposium and the use of the GTSAC logo.

*Chair Morris entertained a motion by Mr. Puuri that the GTSAC endorse the Impaired Driving Action Team's sponsorship of an Impaired Driving Symposium with OHSP providing coordination and oversight. Endorsement includes the use of the GTSAC logo. Captain Powers seconded the motion. Motion Carried.*

### **Other Business**

- **SHSP Development Workshop April 18, 2008 – Ms. Kathy Farnum**
  - Ms. Farnum outlined the day's activities and stressed the importance of all action team chairs to attend.
- **Summit Registration Update – Ms. Anne Readett**
  - The deadline for early registration for the March 11-13 Summit is next Friday.

**Meeting Adjourned at 11:55 a.m.**

**Next Meeting April 18, 2008 – All Day SHSP Development Meeting – MDOT CONFERENCE CENTER**